

November 27, 2013

Please note that news sites update their hyperlinks, so it is advised that articles of interest be read soon as they might not be accessible later.

The Detroit News: Families across the state have child adoptions finalized

"Some Macomb County families got an early start on giving thanks during an 11th annual Michigan Adoption Day ceremony Tuesday. Nearly 100 people attended the event at the Macomb Intermediate School District building on Garfield that highlighted the needs of children in foster care and the importance of adoption.... Event speakers included Michigan Supreme Court Justice David F. Viviano, who said his god-daughter was adopted in Macomb County."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

The Macomb Daily: Macomb County Adoption Day notes difficult, rewarding path of foster care, adoption

[Full story](#)

Ann Arbor News: Michigan Adoption Day in Washtenaw County brings 8 new families together

"Alexandra and Michael Scott vividly recall the phone call they received just months ago letting them know they would soon be the parents of a newborn baby girl.... Alexandra and Michael live in Livingston County, but came to Washtenaw County to participate in a Michigan Adoption Day event held at the Washtenaw County Trial Court building Tuesday morning. The Scotts were one of eight families to legalize their adoptions. In total, nine children were legally adopted Tuesday - one family adopted two children, a brother and a sister."

[Full story](#)

Battle Creek Enquirer: A celebration of adoption in Battle Creek

"It was like Christmas for Airielle Deeren two days before Thanksgiving. 'I was nervous. I couldn't sleep,' said the 11-year-old. On Tuesday Airielle officially became part of the Deeren family when Calhoun County Circuit Judge Brian Kirkham approved her adoption in a public ceremony at the county courthouse in Battle Creek."

[Full story](#)

Note: The article is available only by subscription, but the video is available for free.

Also see:

WFMY News 2/Greensboro, NC: Michigan Adoption Day 2013:[Calhoun County Adoption Day video]

[Full story](#)

Flint Journal: Seven families welcome new children during Genesee County Adoption Day

"It was a day of new beginnings for seven families as Genesee Probate Judge Jennie Barkey finalized their adoptions as part of the state's adoption day celebration. The adoption process is typically closed to the public, but the Tuesday, Nov. 26, celebration allowed the community the opportunity to share the tears, laughter and joy of families from around the county."

[Full story](#)

Grand Rapids Press: Smiles, happiness abound during annual Ottawa County adoption day

"Canaan and Sienna Mulder adore each other. The love between the two siblings is undeniable, says their mother, Kelli Mulder.... The two are not biological siblings. But after Tuesday, they'll forever be brother and sister. Sienna Mulder was officially adopted into her new family as part of Ottawa County's annual adoption day on Nov. 26."

[Full story](#)

Kalamazoo Gazette: Balloons, smiling faces fill Kalamazoo County courtroom on Adoption Day; 'There are only winners today'

"... The confirmation hearings for Ana, Isaiah and Eden Straight took place on Michigan's 11th annual Adoption Day and were among a total of six adoptions finalized in Kalamazoo County.... Justice Stephen J. Markman of the Michigan Supreme Court was also present for Adoption Day in Kalamazoo County, and said the courtroom looked a lot different Tuesday. 'I usually don't see balloons around in the courtroom,' said Markman."

[Full story](#)

Lansing State Journal: Families grow as state celebrates Michigan Adoption Day

"Wearing a black sweater vest, 21-month-old Jorden sat quietly Tuesday in the lap of his foster mother, Dawn Benz, awaiting the pronouncement of a court. With the stroke of a gavel by Jorden's new 10-year-old sister, Brianna, in the Michigan Supreme Court, Dawn Benz and her husband, Jeffrey, became his new parents.... Jorden was among eight children whose adoptions were finalized in the high court as part of Michigan Adoption Day. Midland County Probate Judge Dorene Allen and [Lenawee] County Probate Judge Gregg Iddings presided over the proceedings, along with Chief Justice Robert P. Young Jr."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

Grand Rapids Legal News: Judge Dorene Allen wins Wright Award

[Full story](#)

WJRT-TV(12)/Flint: Michigan families celebrate Adoption Day

[Full story](#)

WLNS-TV(6)/Lansing: Update: Mich. Courts Promote Adoption Across The State

[Full story](#)

The Mining Journal/Marquette: Adoption Day hits home for four kids

"Four Children have much to be thankful for this holiday season because they have officially been adopted. Judge Cheryl Hill presided over the adoption hearings in honor of Michigan's Adoption Day which was Nov. 26.... Adoption Day was created to bring awareness to the 13,000 children that are need of homes in Michigan. In Marquette County alone there are 23 children waiting to be adopted and this year Judge Hill has done more than 33 adoptions."

[Full story](#)

The Morning Sun/Mount Pleasant: Five local children get 'forever homes' during Adoption Day

"... Adoption Day in Michigan always falls on the Tuesday prior to Thanksgiving, and for Adam and Katie's family, there is more now to be thankful for then ever before. That goes for two other area families who adopted four children in [Isabella County Trial Judge William] Ervin's courtroom Tuesday.... Bruce Kilmer, Isabella County's state court administrator, said officials in Michigan began promoting Adoption Day to the public a decade ago in the hopes of encouraging more people to adopt."

[Full story](#)

Muskegon Chronicle: Muskegon-area, West Michigan families celebrate family during annual Adoption Day event

"Donning a black dress with white polka dots and a set of ringlets, Arionna Moreno yanked on a silver balloon and weaved in and out of the tables placed before Muskegon County Judge Kathy L. Hoogstra as her grandparents sat nearby. Unbeknownst to the toddler, her new parents were finalizing their full custody rights as part of a statewide effort known as Michigan Adoption Day, celebrated in Muskegon on Tuesday, Nov. 26 at the Michael E. Kobza Hall of Justice."

[Full story](#)

The Oakland Press: Oakland County families celebrate annual 'Adoption Day' (with video)

"It was an early Thanksgiving for several Oakland County families that participated in Michigan Adoption Day on Tuesday morning in Circuit Court.... The Kaiser family was one of eight families that participated in Michigan Adoption Day, which aims to teach the public more about the adoption process. Adoption is usually a private matter done behind closed doors."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

Public News Service: 11th Annual Michigan Adoption Day Celebrates Forever Families

[Full story](#)

WDIV-TV(4)/Detroit: 12 Michigan children find forever families on Adoption Day

[Full story](#)

WXYZ-TV(7)/Detroit: Dozens of new families formed as Michigan celebrates Adoption Day

[Full story](#)

ABC 57 News/South Bend, IN: 11th annual Michigan adoption day

"Cass County celebrated its 11th Annual Michigan Adoption Day Tuesday. ABC 57 was present for a big moment for four Michigan families. Six children were adopted ranging from one to six-years-old. State and local leaders were there for the big celebrations trying to draw attention to the needs of children and youth across the state."

[Full story](#)

WOOD-TV(8)/Grand Rapids: 80 children adopted on MI Adoption Day; 30 counties participated

"Approximately 80 children were adopted across the state Tuesday on Michigan Adoption Day. Thirty counties participated in finalizing adoptions, while others held informational events to reach potential adoptive parents. Kris Faasse, who is the director of adoption at Bethany Christian Services in Grand Rapids, spoke to 24 Hour News 8 about the adoption trends and issues happening [Tuesday]."

[Full story](#)

Detroit Free Press: High court rebuffs Troy in transit land case; court fight looks finished

"The Michigan Supreme Court apparently put an end to the City of Troy's fight against having to pay for the land under its new Troy Transit Center. The ruling, issued Monday but not made public until [Tuesday], means the city's multiyear legal battle with a shopping center developer has probably ended, Troy City Attorney Lori Grigg Bluhm said."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

The Detroit News: Troy may condemn property for new transit center if \$550K offer to buy rejected

[Full story](#)

Crain's Detroit Business: State Supreme Court denies Troy transit center appeal; city to offer Grand/Sakwa \$550,000 for land

[Full story](#)

Detroit Free Press: Family can sue in child removal case involving Mike's Hard Lemonade, judge rules

"An Ann Arbor family can proceed with a lawsuit against [Wayne County Family Court Judge Judy Hartsfield,] who placed their 7-year-old son in foster care after his father mistakenly gave him Mike's Hard Lemonade at a Detroit Tigers game, a federal judge ruled [Tuesday].

[Full story](#)

Also see:

Associated Press: Judge refuses to toss out parents' lawsuit over child removal in case involving Mike's Hard Lemonade

[Full story](#)

Detroit Free Press: Wayne County to work with Rock Ventures on jail site deal for up to six months

"Wayne County Commissioners voted Tuesday to allow representatives of the county to work with Rock Ventures for the next six months on determining whether a move for the county's jail and court services is in the county's best interests."

[Full story](#)

Detroit Free Press: Judge tells state: Give juvenile lifers a shot at parole

"... Amy [Black] and hundreds others like her have a chance at freedom following a federal judge's ruling Tuesday that all of Michigan's juvenile lifers should have a shot at parole. U.S. District Judge John Corbett O'Meara concluded that life sentences for juveniles already have been declared 'cruel and unusual punishment' by the U.S. Supreme Court and that the state needs to adhere to that philosophy."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

Daily Press & Argus: Parole order draws rebuke; Ruling raises hopes for juvenile lifers in Michigan

[Full story](#)

The Daily Tribune: Judge: Parole hearings for Michigan juvenile lifers

[Full story](#)

Note: The article also ran in the Macomb Daily and the Oakland Press.

The MLW Blog: Juvenile lifers will get chance at parole, state must make plan by Jan. 31

[Full story](#)

Flint-Genesee County Legal News: Life of legendary judge in spotlight

"Philanthropist A. Alfred Taubman, the real estate magnate universally credited with pioneering the modern shopping mall, wanted to do 'something special' for his longtime friend, Damon J.

Keith, the distinguished federal jurist who has devoted a career to 'fighting the good fight' for social and racial justice."

[Full story](#)

Grand Rapids Legal News: Judge Murkowski tells Probate Section about Kent County's first probate judge

"Inspired by last year's celebration of the first Federal judge in Kent County, Chief Probate Court Judge David Murkowski threw himself into research on the first probate judge in the area, Jefferson Morrison. And if Judge Murkowski's presentation before the Grand Rapids Bar's Probate and Estate Planning Section last week is any indication, he has quickly become an expert on the subject."

[Full story](#)

The MLW Blog: State's new Solicitor General 'thrilled to have the opportunity'

"Aaron D. Lindstrom has been appointed Michigan Solicitor General by Attorney General Bill Schuette, effective Dec. 7. He succeeds John J. Bursch, who announced his resignation in October.... Lindstrom has been in the Solicitor General Bureau for a year, and previously worked in the appellate practice group at Warner Norcross & Judd LLP in Grand Rapids."

[Full story](#)

MLive.com: Blind man and his new leader dog brighten Detroit courthouse

"Craig McGlassion is blind, but that's just what other people see. The 59-year-old doesn't know any different. It's been that way since he was 6 months old just getting out of an incubator at a hospital in his birthplace of Independence, Mo.... Inside the belly of the ornate, marble-walled U.S. federal courthouse on West Lafayette in downtown Detroit, McGlassion and his new guide dog, Hero, soften the litigious world around them."

[Full story](#)

The Morning Sun/Mount Pleasant: Governor appoints Janes to Isabella bench

"Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder has appointed a Mt. Pleasant native to the bench of the Isabella County Trial Court. Snyder announced Tuesday that Eric R. Janes of Janes, Backus & Janes will replace former Judge William Rush, who retired Aug. 31. Janes was one of three to be appointed to judgeships in Michigan; the others were in Kalamazoo and VanBuren counties."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

MLive.com: Scott Pierangeli, former Kalamazoo County assistant prosecutor, appointed probate court judge

[Full story](#)

The MLW Blog: Three judges appointed to Isabella, Kalamazoo, Van Buren counties

[Full story](#)

The Oakland Press Blog: District Judge Sees the Devil's Harvest

"... While the Michigan Medical Marijuana Act has attracted much attention in the courts and the media all over Michigan, it has had a disturbingly polarizing effect on Dearborn District Judge Mark W. Somers.... Now he has been disqualified by the Michigan Court of Appeals from deciding

any more cases involving the MMA on the basis that he has pre-judged individuals accused of marijuana possession and distribution, despite the availability of valid defenses.”

[Full story](#)

Saginaw News: Saginaw prosecutor seeks stiff sentence for man convicted in neighbor's homicide who said he would join al-Qaida, kill again

“[Saginaw County Circuit Judge Robert Kaczmarek] will wait at least a week longer to decide the sentence of a Saginaw man convicted of manslaughter in the January 2011 homicide of his neighbor.... The conviction came 16 months after Kaczmarek sentenced Mitchell to 30 to 50 years in prison for second-degree murder. The Michigan Court of Appeals reversed that conviction, however, ruling that Kaczmarek should have given the jury in Mitchell's trial the option to convict him of manslaughter.”

[Full story](#)